

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10-12, 14 and 17 were pending prior to filing this Response. Claims 1 and 17 are being canceled. Claims 20-36 are being added. Therefore, claims 10-12, 14 and 20-36 remain for consideration.

Claims 10-12 and 14 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Lesesky (U.S. Pat. No. 5,917,632). Claims 1 and 17 are being canceled herein, and therefore the rejection of claims 1 and 17 is now moot.

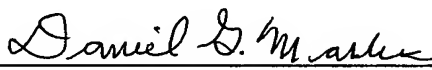
Claims 20-36 are being added. Claim 20 is similar to allowable claim 10 in reciting light opaque sleeves as being electrically conducting and that upon pressing together the ends of the light conducting elements of the coupling parts an electrical contact is established. As mentioned in the Office Action of February 26, 2007 in allowing claim 10, the Examiner states that the above-mentioned subject matter pertaining to light opaque sleeves is not described or reasonably suggested in the prior art. Accordingly, claim 20 is in allowable form for at least the reasons set forth for allowed claim 10. Moreover, claims 21-36 each ultimately depend from and thereby incorporate the limitations of claim 20. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21-36 are also in allowable form.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10-12 and 14 are allowed, and that claims 20-36 are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Application No.: 10/694,072
Final Office Action dated: February 26, 2007
Response to Final Office Action with RCE dated: May 23, 2007

A check in the amount of \$840.00 is enclosed to cover the fee for filing the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (\$790.00) and to cover the fee for adding one claim in excess of twenty (\$50.00). No additional fees or deficiencies in fees are believed to be owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any such fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

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